

his heart, not on his sleeve; he was a deeply moral man who disdained the outward trappings of feigned piety; he was the eternal optimist in an increasingly foreboding world.

He also believed that government was the instrument of the people, not its enemy, and that some of the worst errors a society could produce were sins of omission rather than sins of commission.

One might be inclined to think that today marks the end of an era—but that only happens when we bury both the body and the spirit—and we certainly aren't doing that today. There are today literally hundreds of young and middle-aged people who have been inspired by Jim's love of the little guy.

This legacy will never die.

And speaking of love and legacies, a subject that was nearest and dearest to Jim was his family. He spoke often, fondly and almost reverentially, of his mother and father, Mike and Alice Gillick Hanley; and, of course, he idolized Rita, Peter, Chris, and Jimmy, Jim, Patrick, Liza and Meg. It's often said that God never takes someone home, but what he sends a new light in his place. And so today, as Jim ascends that glorious staircase, we welcome his and Rita's newest heir, on month old Dylan Michael.

A part of Jim's other family is also present this morning—the team who worked side by side with him on behalf of the folks in Central New York. Tom DeYulia, Kate Ryan, Mike Kinsella, Bob Warne, Jim Ryan and several others. I know the thoughts I express are shared by each of them as well.

I would be remiss at this point, and I know Jim would be upset with me, if I didn't shift gears and include at least one humorous anecdote in my remarks.

As many of you realize, Jim was known affectionately on Capitol Hill as "Gentleman Jim." His civilized approach to everyone he met ran to the heart of his beliefs—the dignity of the individual.

Sometimes that philosophy took on comical overtones.

Jim knew that one of the highest forms of respect was remembering another's first name. He had a legendary reputation for that.

What many people didn't realize was that Jim had a slight impairment in one ear and so sometimes his hearing was skewed.

He remembered what he heard, but he didn't always hear names correctly.

One day at the Capitol, I was approached by an old friend, Dick Conlon, who was the staff director on one of the committees. He said, "John I have a favor to ask. Jim is always very gracious to me. He goes out of his way to stop and chat. But he invariably calls me Bill—and it's embarrassing—especially if someone else is present." I said I'd take care of it, and proceeded to explain the situation to Jim. Jim said, "I always thought his name was Bill." I repeated that it was Dick.

A week or so later Conlon stopped me again, and with a shrug of disappointment said, "Thanks a lot. Hanley came up to a group of us yesterday, smiled and stuck out his hand to me, paused for a second or two and, then said 'Hi, uh, Tom. Keep up the good work.'"

At this point, I think its time for me to depart gracefully. I have been blessed with the friendship and trust of one of God's truly fine men.

Jim, thanks for the chance to share in a beautiful life.

In your own words, "Till then . . ."

## A LIFE OF SERVICE AND COURAGE

### HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 10, 2004*

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a young man from my district who exemplified great courage while serving his country. Private First Class Ervin Dervishi was fatally wounded two weeks ago in Iraq when his unit was attacked by grenade fire.

Private Dervishi displayed his extraordinary commitment to fight for freedom and justice. Freedom and justice are the building blocks of democracy, and these values are the heartbeat of all immigrants, like Private Dervishi, who fight for our country every day.

Born in Albania, Private Dervishi came to America with his brother and his parents in search of a better life for their family. He quickly enrolled in his local high school and became a heralded athlete on the soccer field. Not merely settling for citizenship alone, Private Dervishi wanted to contribute to society. That's why he began participating in a two-year volunteer program called Young Explorers with the Waxahachie Police Department. At his memorial service, Private Dervishi's adviser for Young Explorers, Police Chief Nathan Bickerstaff, praised this young man for his enthusiastic nature and fascination with law enforcement. Police Chief Bickerstaff smiled as he recalled Private Dervishi telling him that someday he would become a police officer.

Private Dervishi moved to Fort Worth and joined the Army's 4th Infantry Division in Fort Hood, Texas, after graduating from Western Hills High School. After deployment to Iraq, Private Dervishi showed exemplary combat skills and was present at the capture of Saddam Hussein. He was laid to rest with military honors, and Brig. Gen. Robert Crear presented the family with two distinctive posthumous decorations—the Purple Heart and Bronze Star—for their son's service. High-ranking officials of the Albanian government, including President Alfred Moisiu, have also recognized Private Dervishi's mark in the world by conferring the Golden Eagle Medalion on Private Dervishi. This award is rarely given, but it marks Private Dervishi as a martyr for freedom and peace for two countries.

Private Dervishi is remembered by his family and peers as a true friend who was devoted to family and country and dedicated to the causes of justice, freedom, and peace.

Private Dervishi understood more about freedom in his short life than many will in an entire lifetime. He lived an extraordinary life, rich with love, laughter, and pride. As a Member of Congress, I rise today to acknowledge Private Dervishi and his family for their sacrifice and service to the cause of freedom and the war against terror.

In his eulogy, Police Chief Bickerstaff vowed to carry a photo of Private Dervishi as a reminder of his ultimate sacrifice, saying "he will always be a hero in my eyes."

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Dervishi family. May you be strengthened and comforted in this devastating time.

## IN RECOGNITION OF JACK T. GENTRY

### HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 10, 2004*

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has distinguished himself in southwest Missouri by his commitment to improving our manufacturing sector and expanding our markets abroad. Jack T. Gentry of Springfield, MO, is a builder, creator, innovator, and motivator. He has worked aggressively to give manufacturers a voice in their community and government. Ten years ago, he was the driving force in creating the Springfield Area Manufacturers Association (SAMA), the region's first manufacturer's association, and then served as its president. In September 2002, SAMA broadened its focus to include 40 manufacturers throughout southwest Missouri, and the name was changed to the Southwest Area Manufacturers Association. Today the organization represents more than 60 manufacturing companies.

The association's mission and Jack Gentry's aim is to represent the economic, political, educational, and social interests of southwest Missouri area manufacturers and their employees, while promoting the betterment of the local economy and the environment, as well as the well being of the manufacturing industry in southwest Missouri.

Jack Gentry has always been ahead of manufacturing trends and issues. More than a decade ago, Jack and the Manufacturing Association began taking action on issues that are center stage in manufacturing today. With his leadership, the Association developed awareness programs about how to find, create, and train a literate labor force. The association contributed \$37,000 to public schools for technology and provided career awareness opportunities for high school students by hosting plant tours, internships, and school-to-work initiatives. In 1993, Positronic Industries, Jack's company and a founding SAMA member, began working with the U.S. Department of Labor and Ozarks Technical Community College to develop company-paid apprenticeships in order to meet the need for a skilled workforce. To date, 128 employees have completed their training in nine areas and received Department of Labor certification.

The association also initiated discussion about the impact of taxes, workers' compensation, and health care costs on the manufacturing sector with government leaders. It was the first time in southwest Missouri that manufacturers spoke with a unified voice about their concerns.

Positronic Industries, founded by Jack in 1966, embodies his manufacturing philosophy—work smart, expand markets, keep ahead of trends, and deliver a reliable, dependable product. The bedrock of that philosophy is a workforce of skilled employees. Positronic employs 800 individuals worldwide manufacturing high performance, high reliability electronic connectors in ten facilities located throughout southwest Missouri, Puerto Rico, France, and Singapore.

In the face of adversity, Jack has demonstrated repeatedly both his commitment to his employees and his refusal to quit. When the Positronic plant in Rogersville, MO, was